



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Helen Fitzgibbon
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

**ELIOTT MAINE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF INTERSTATE
TRAVEL TO ENGAGE IN ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Portsmouth Police Chief Michael Magnant today announced that Dustin Buttrick, 23, of Elliott, Maine was convicted after a two day jury trial of traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct. Buttrick was arrested by the Portsmouth Police Department at 8:30 a.m. on June 24, 2003, when Buttrick showed up at a pre-arranged location to meet a 14-year-old girl to engage in sexual conduct. Buttrick had engaged in internet correspondence with the purported victim for approximately three weeks before arranging the meeting. The 14-year-old was in fact an undercover police officer conducting an investigation of online solicitation of minors.

A sentencing hearing was scheduled for December 20, 2004. Buttrick faces a statutory maximum of 30 years in prison. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, Buttrick will likely receive a sentence that is substantially lower than the statutory maximum. Buttrick was detained pending sentencing.

U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono applauded the efforts of the Portsmouth Police Department, the lead investigating agency on the case. U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "When Congress passed the Protect Act, it emphasized the importance of prosecuting those individuals who use the Internet to prey on minors by increasing the punishment for such crimes. My office will continue to dedicate its resources to prosecuting those individuals who travel interstate with the purpose of engaging in sex with minors. Prosecuting such individuals will remove them and the danger they pose and will provide a significant deterrent to those who may consider taking advantage of our children."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Helen Fitzgibbon.